

Good News From GRREC Districts

2014 SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR



**Superintendent Nanette Johnston
KASA Award Winner**

Nannette Johnston, superintendent of Hardin County Schools, has been selected as the 2014 Kentucky Superintendent of the Year by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA). She was presented the award Wednesday, November 27 at the Hardin County Board of Education in a surprise ceremony attended by faculty, staff, board members and community leaders. Johnston will now compete for the National Superintendent of the Year Award, to be given by the American Association of School Administrators in February 2014.

KASA President Paul Mullins, the first-year superintendent in the Garrard County Schools, and a longtime acquaintance of Johnston's, said, "She has been a wonderful resource for me both professionally and personally. As a new superintendent, I find myself reflecting often on things she has shared and modeled."

Under Johnston's leadership, Hardin County has excelled in college and career readiness. The district recently kicked off their Hardin County Work Ethic Certification Program which is developed around eight work ethic standards they call "The Great Eight". The program is supported by the community financially, and through teaching and mentoring. Its goal is to assure that all Hardin County graduates have the personal skills and

character traits – beyond academic preparation – to be successful in the workplace.

A lifelong learner, Johnston earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Louisville; a Master of Arts degree in elementary education, Rank 1 certification in administration and supervision and an endorsement in the superintendency, all from Western Kentucky University.

Prior to being named superintendent in 2007, Johnston served as interim superintendent, director of early childhood programs and a teacher, all in Hardin County.

In her community, Johnston serves on the board of directors of the Hardin County Elizabethtown Industrial Foundation, is a member of the CORE committee and the local YMCA strategic planning committee. Professionally, she is an active member of KASA and the American Association of School Administrators.

Kentucky Superintendent of the Year is not the first award Johnston has received. Other honors include the National Patriot Award, Kentucky Association of Education Office Professionals Superintendent of the Year, Kentucky Association of Pupil Transportation Superintendent of the Year, Distinguished Alumni for Hardin County Schools, Elizabethtown Community College and Chamber Education Award. Johnston was also one of two superintendents nationally chosen to serve on the U.S. Army ROTC National Subcommittee.

"All superintendents want what's best for the students in their charge," said Wayne Young, KASA executive director. "But Nannette sets the bar incredibly high when it comes to passionately advocating for what is best for children, without regard to the barriers or naysayers."

In addition to the surprise ceremony, Johnston will be recognized at the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents winter conference December 9, 2013, at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville.

Representing more than 3,000 education leaders, KASA has members in every school district in the Commonwealth. Since 1969, KASA has been connecting education leaders to policy makers, legislators, and other interest groups, in addition to providing benefits and services to Kentucky's school administrators.

**CONGRATULATIONS SUPERINTENDENT
NANETTE JOHNSTON & HARDIN CO**

SCHOOLS!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS OF AWARDS PRESENTED AT

48TH ANNUAL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 24-

26, 2013



**MEET THE 2013
DIRECTOR OF
THE YEAR
RECIPIENT**

**Vicki Writsel,
Associate
Superintendent and
Director of Special
Programs from
Bowling Green Ind.
Schools**



**MEET THE
2013 TEACHER
OF THE YEAR
RECIPIENT**

**Candace Stolt, Franklin
Ele. School,
Simpson Co.**

A 34 year veteran in the field of special education, 26 of those years as a Director of Special Education, Vicki has had the opportunity to teach, lead, coach and mentor numerous people! One of those people is Dr. Rhonda Simpson, who describes Vicki as "the person who has made the difference in my professional career. She understands that leadership is about relationships." Vicki holds degrees in Communication Disorders from Murray State University and a Rank I in Educational Administration from the University of Louisville. She has been with Bowling Green Independent Schools for 17 years; nine years as Director of Special Programs and eight years as Associate Superintendent. Throughout her special education tenure, Vicki has been an active member of KYCEC for 26 years and served as President of KYCEC for two years and is an active member of KYCASE. In March 2012, Vicki won the Unbridled Spirit for Justice Award from the Ky Commission for Human Rights, and in 2010, she won the Innovation District Leader of the Year from the Institute for School Innovation.

Vicki likes to share her "Words to live by" from Mother Teresa: Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. Give the world the best you've got anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it's between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

Amanda and Billy Wemyss, parents of one of "Ms. Candy's" former students, describe the joy they feel today and say that they still feel "Without adequate words to say how special she is." This is despite the fact that Ms. Candy had their son in preschool and he has gone on to graduate from Franklin Simpson High School and receive a scholarship to University of Kentucky for Civil Engineering. Candace has been teaching for 29 years, is a National Board Certified specialist, and has received numerous awards for her efforts and her classroom. Still, she cites her greatest source of pride to being called "Ms. Candy" by her students and parents. She makes it her goal that every preschool and kindergarten student, as well as their parents, feel welcome and experience positive transitions and instructional experiences suited to their needs. She says her motto is, "Greet every family with a smile on your face and a song of hope in your voice."

**The Kentucky Department of Education, the
Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children and
Green River Regional Educational Cooperative**

would like to congratulate Ms. Candace Stolt on being one of the three esteemed finalists and winner for the Special Education Teacher of the Year Award.

MEET THE 2013 TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE FROM GRREC DISTRICTS



**Ms. Carrie
Wedding,
Owensboro
Middle School,
Owensboro
Independent
Schools.**

Principal George Powell describes Carrie by saying that she truly cares about kids and is always looking for ways to improve their lives. Carrie's first work experiences in a non-profit for abused and neglected children in the court system led her to the realization that 60% of abused and neglected children also had special learning needs. She chose a teaching career; she identified the value of co-teaching and has since pioneered many professional development opportunities in her school and district to advance co-teaching efforts. Carrie says, "I have worked to educate teachers that it is NOT about what they (the students) CAN'T do, but about HOW they can do it DIFFERENTLY." She has worked with university staff and students to develop partnerships that encourage her students to "dream big" and envision their futures in college.

The Kentucky Department of Education, the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children and Green River Regional Educational Cooperative would like to congratulate Ms. Carrie Wedding on

being one of the three esteemed finalists for the Special Education Teacher of the Year Award.

MEET THE 2013 EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Beth Schaeffer

Beth Schaeffer has served as the Preschool Instructional Consultant for Warren County Schools for the past three years. As Preschool Consultant, Beth coordinates preschool programming for children in the Warren County School system and provides professional development and coaching for preschool teachers and paraprofessionals. Prior to this position, Beth worked in other areas of early childhood education including positions as an Early Reading First Coach, a preschool teacher, and a developmental Interventionist.



Twenty-Five Year Special Educators

It is with sincere appreciation and gratitude that we honor these deserving award recipients for 25 years of commitment and dedication serving students with disabilities across the Commonwealth.

- Jeannie Marie Taylor - Allen County - Teacher
- Bill Davenport - Hardin County - Teacher
- Tara Garris - Meade County - Teacher
- Suzy Harreld - Meade County - Teacher
- Vickie Voyles - Meade County - Teacher
- Holly Bedingfield - Owensboro Ind. - Teacher
- Carolyn Filzer - Owensboro Ind. - Teacher

- Melodie Leonard - Owensboro Ind. - Teacher
- Mona Malone - Taylor County - Teacher

**Congratulations from all of here at GRREC
on achieving this milestone and making a
difference in the lives of children!**

2013 YES I CAN! AWARD STUDENT RECIPIENTS

3 OF THE 7 WINNERS ARE FROM GRREC! GREAT JOB EVERYONE!

As pictured
Left to Right

Beth Thornton

Braden Ussery

Zebulon Risen

Morgan Elliott

Suede Posey

Kevin Bailey

Robert Gross



Suede Posey – Transition/Vocational Training

Suede, 18, was a student at **Green County High School** Success Academy and Green County Area Technology Center where he was described as a “hard worker.” Despite his disability, he pushed through hard times and persevered despite setbacks. Suede participated in the welding program and made numerous accomplishments. He developed into a



confident and competent student and has the opportunity to attend a welding school after graduation to refine his skills for a more promising future. **What a resume Suede!**

Zebulon Risen - Arts

Zebulon, 15, is a student at **Green County Middle School** where he holds a 4.0 GPA. Zebulon is visually impaired and has autism. He does not let these obstacles



slow him down. His talent of auditory memory allows him to play music with ease. Zebulon is a member of his school's band where he plays several instruments. He performs at community events, various churches, and talent shows to share his gift of music. He is an officer in the Jr. Beta Club and a great encourager to all he meets. **Wonderfully amazing accomplishments Zebulon!**

YES I CAN! STUDENT AWARDS

Braden Ussery - Technology

Braden, 12, is a student at Alvaton Elementary School in

Warren County Schools,

Bowling Green. Despite having a visual impairment,

Braden has become an

accomplished pianist. With the help of technology, Braden is at the top of his class in many subjects and received exceptional marks in language arts and music.

He writes for the school newspaper with the help of technology. Braden is learning to live and excel independently with the help of technology.

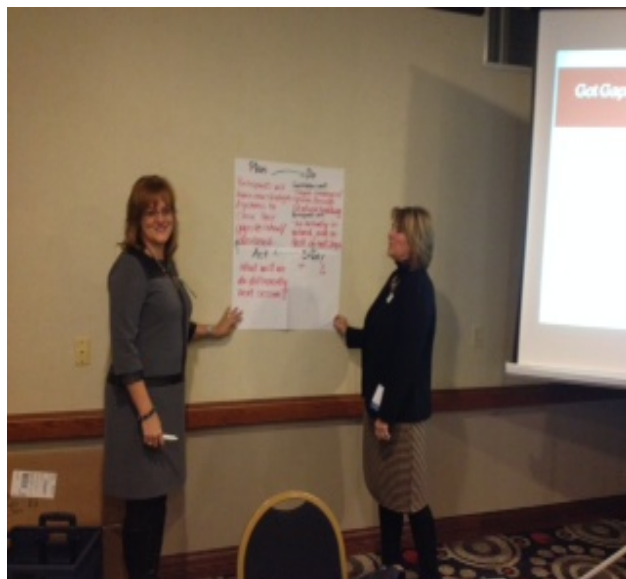
Congratulations on your many accomplishments

Braden!



Pictured Left to Right: Johnny Collett, KDE, Renee Scott, Jefferson County Award Nominee, Candace Stolt, Simpson County Award Winner, Carrie Wedding, Owensboro Independent Award Nominee, Pam Matlock, KYCEC President

OTHER CEC HIGHLIGHTS



Shelia Baugh, Simpson Co and Liz Brewer, GRREC, Presenting "Got Gaps? Here is How We are Closing Them"





Traci Sharpe Presented "Little Kids with Big Behaviors: Equipping Yourself to Meet THEIR Needs" and "Teach and Reteach: Positive Behavior Supports in the Classroom"

OTHER CEC HIGHLIGHTS



From left to right
 Kathy Maciel, GRREC Consultant and CEC Secretary, Vicki Writsel, 2013 Director of the Year Award Winner, Rhonda Simpson, Green Co. DoSE and past KYCase Officer and current KYCEC officer and Kim Johnson, OPS DoSE and current KYCase officer. Vicki has also been nominated for the National CASE Director of the Year Award. GOOD LUCK VICKI

OTHER CEC HIGHLIGHTS



Pictured: Zeb Risen

Each winner for the **2013 YES I CAN! AWARD** was asked to discuss their experiences during the session. Zeb has also been nominated for the National YES I CAN! Award. GOOD LUCK ZEB!



Green Co had the highest number of the representatives attend the awards ceremony. The picture includes special education teachers, DPP, Superintendent, a board member, retired teacher, parents of Green County winners, principal, instructional assistant, students, OT, evaluation specialist and our very own Rhonda Simpson

WHAT A GOOD LOOKING GROUP



**Wyn Caudill, Edmonson Co,
Participating with Keynote Speaker
Dave Weber**

OTHER CEC HIGHLIGHTS **WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**



**Jade Nadile (pictured) &
Karla Bowles, Glasgow Ind.
Presented "Life Isn't 50/50:
Creating Successful
Transition and Closing the
Gap for Students with
Disabilities"**

**Rebecca Gaddie, Jennifer Clemmons
& Randi Womack Presented, "A Mindset for
Success in Mathematics"**

**Meena Mann Presented "Accommodations
for Students who are Deaf/HH in
Inclusive Classrooms"**

**Kim Johnson, presented "Help is on
the Way" for the new DoSE**

Shelia Baugh presented"

College or Career Ready for All"

**Mr. Kelly Copas, Bowling Green Ind./WKU
presented "Teaching Strategies which Enhance
End of Course Assessments"**

**Janet Applin, WKU presented "Yes, You Are a
Leader!"**

**Wanda Chandler & Connie Foster, WKU presented
"Create a Journal with Posed Readership Utilizing
Your Institution's Digital Research Repository"**

Where's Christy Nofsinger??????



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3v66bTZoMrQ>

WKU Students Posters Session

**The Effects of Food Dye When Used in Food
Reinforcement in Students with Hyperactivity
Disorders – Cain Alvey, Kacy Corbitt, Johnna
Woodward, and Taylor Maurer**

**Developing Effective Behavioral Contracts –
Shayla Carter, Morgan Pippin, Taylor Hill and
Sarah Neal**

**Effects of a Token Economy in Special Education –
Shayla Carter, Morgan Pippin, Taylor Hill and
Sarah Neal**

**How Classroom Layouts Impacts Special Education
Delivery – Whitney Young, Paige Hall and Dylan
Carter**

**Vocabulary Instruction – Maranda Feldman, Annie
Katzman and Amy Lieber**

Targeting Visual Prompting Using Tangible
Reinforcement – Leslie Howard and Morgan
Childress

Teacher Collaboration to Assist Special Learners in
a Kentucky Mennonite Community – Chesley
Craine, Molly McNamara, Emily Glass and Richelle
Woodrome

Reading Comprehension – Cayla Mayes and
Hendrix Brakefield

Behavioral Contracting – Emily Blythe and
Amanda Dennison

Spelling to Success – Megan Lechner and Jenna
Clark

Time-Out Procedures with a Focus on Sensory
Rooms – Crysta Hicks, Laura Beth Fiorella and
Ariel Lassaline

[WAY TO GO! WKU FUTURE TEACHERS](#)